

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SSO-00 INRE-00 NEA-06 ARA-06

EA-06 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

PRS-01 OES-02 PM-03 ( ISO ) W  
----- 013166

O R 271512Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8582

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

S E C R E T LAGOS 2919

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NI

SUBJECT: HOST GOVERNMENT POSITION FOR A CONSUMER  
PRODUCER CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 058837; (B) STATE 067363

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IS RESIGNED AND PROBABLY EVEN  
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RELIEVED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE

FORTHCOMING CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE, CONFIDENT THAT ITS PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVES--OIL PRICE MAINTENANCE, RELATIVE SHIFT OF ECONOMIC POWER FROM INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES TO OIL PRODUCERS, AND CAMOUFLAGE OF OPEC RESPONSIBILITY FOR ECONOMIC DISRUPTION WITH OTHER THIRD-WORLD ISSUES--WILL BE ADEQUATELY SUPPORTED BY OTHER OPEC MEMBERS. END SUMMARY

1. NIGERIA DID NOT SEEK A DIRECT ROLE IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND IS NOT LIKELY TO SEEK A PLACE AT FOLLOW-ON CONFERENCE OF CONSUMER AND PRODUCER NATIONS--UNLESS OF COURSE ALL OPEC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH NIGERIA'S TRADITIONAL OPEC ROLE OF LETTING OTHERS DO THE WORK AND THEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY GAIN THEY OBTAIN. IT ALSO REFLECTS LAGOS' CURRENT LACK OF POLICY-MAKING CAPACITY: THE P/C CONFERENCE IS A DIRECT OUTGROWTH OF OPEC AFFAIRS AND THEREFOR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER, RATHER THAN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR TRADE, AND MMP'S LEADERS ARE DIVIDED; THE COMMISSIONER WAS ONLY RECENTLY REAPPOINTED AFTER AN ABSENCE OF FIVE WEEKS, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY (WHO HOLDS STRONG VIEWS ON P/C RELATIONS AND WOULD BE ABLE TO FORGE A NIGERIAN POSITION FOR THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE) HAS IN FACT NOT ATTENDED AN OPEC MEETING FOR TWO YEARS, AND THE LEADING OIL EXPERT IS NOW SERVING AS THE OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. AS P/C ISSUES CRYSTALIZE, NIGERIA CAN BE PREDICTED TO SUPPORT THE USUAL THIRD WORLD THEMES (AS AT THE RECENT DAKAR CONFERENCE OF LDC'S) BUT MEANWHILE NIGERIAN OBJECTIVES ARE RATHER SIMPLE: TO MAINTAIN HIGH OIL PRICES, TO REMAIN FREE TO PRODUCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF ECONOMIC POWER EXERCISED BY PRODUCING NATIONS, AND TO DIVERT THE CRITICISM OF LESS FORTUNATE LDC'S. THE NIGERIANS MUST REASON THAT OTHER OPEC MEMBERS' OBJECTIVES, THOUGH MORE COMPLEX, ARE AT LEAST CONSISTANT. NEITHER ALGERIA, VENEZUELA SAUDI ARABIA, NOR IRAN ALONE SEES EYE TO EYE WITH NIGERIA, BUT NIGERIA PROBABLY TRUSTS THESE FOUR OPEC REPRESENTATIVES COLLECTIVELY TO WORK TOWARD RESULTS FAVORABLE TO NIGERIA.

3. THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN LITTLE OR NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN NIGERIA OF THE ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN PARIS, AND THE  
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GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE HAS PROBABLY NOT FOCUSED ON THEM. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MMP HAS SPOKEN ABOUT A "NEW PARTNER-SHIP" OF PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS (LAGOS 08957 OF SEPTEMBER 24, 1974) WHICH IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH THE NEW ECONOMIC ORDER SOUGHT BY ALGERIAN AND THE NIGERIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO LONDON RECENTLY SAID NIGERIA FAVORED PRICE INDEXING (WITHOUT FURTHER ELABORATION IN THE PRESS RELEASE CIRCULATED HERE), BUT THAT'S ABOUT IT AS FAR AS THE PUBLIC

RECORD IS CONCERNED. THE PERMANENT SECRETARY ALSO RECENTLY  
WARNED AMBASSADOR REINHARDT THAT THE P/C CONFERENCE WOULD NOT  
SUCCEED IF CONSUMERS ARE NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS INDEXING (LAGOS  
01446 OF FEBRYARY 13).  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETINGS, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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